Ron Embleton

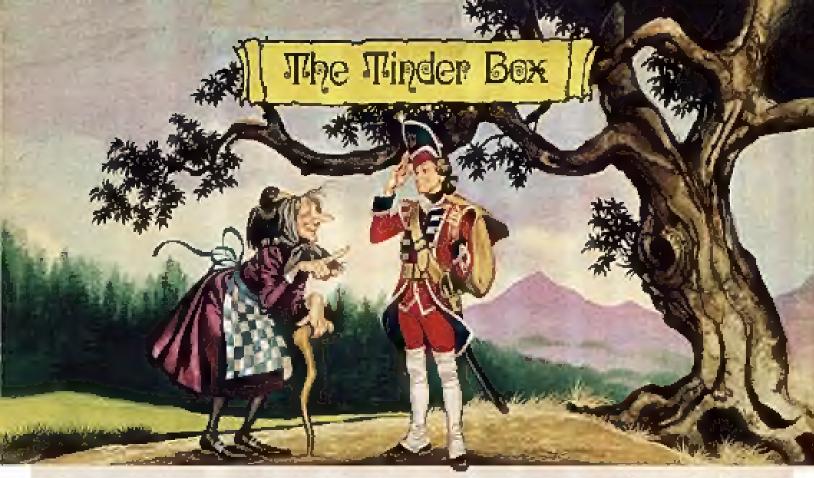


Once Upon a Time

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ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY ONCE UDON TIME PRICE 128





Once upon a time, there came a soldler murching along the high ross—littl, ngitt, left, nghi? His had no khaptack on his oach and a sword by his side, for he had been to the wars and was now raturning home. And on the road he met an old witch. A milher horrid creature she was, "Good evening," cackled she



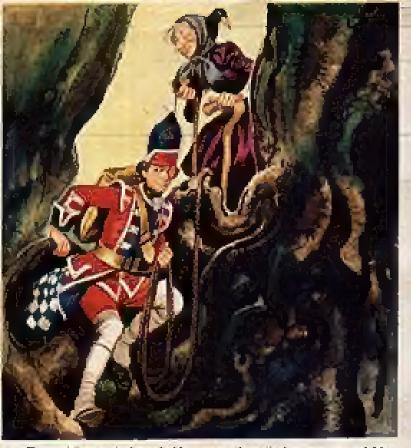
"It is quite hollow within," she want on. "You can easily climb down little it. As seen as you get to the bottom you will lind yourself in a passage. There you will see three doors with the keys in the locks. On opening the first door you will enter a room, where a dog with eyes as big as teacups guards a chest filled with copper coins. Yake as much as you please."

"What a bright award and what a large knapsack you have, my time tenow it jest you what-you shall have as much money for your own as you can wish." Thanks, old wich," sold the soldier. "But how will that happen?" "Do you see yender farge tree?" said the witch, pointing to a tree close by the weigide

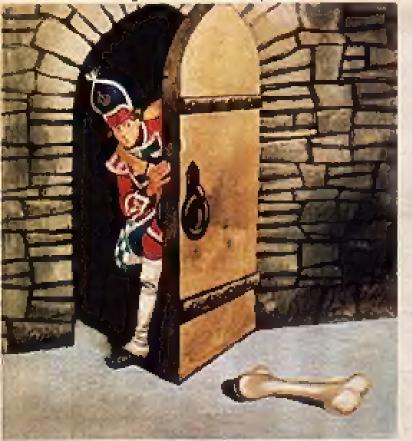


4. "Do not be shaid of the dog," said the witch. "I will lend you my spron, Just put him on the apron and he will do you no harm. But if you like silver coins better, go into the next room, where you will find a dog with eyes as large as mill-wheels. Do not be alraid of him. You have only to set him down on my apron and you will

be able to empty the silver chest with ease.



5. The soldier took the witch's apron, then fied a rope round his waist and let himself down into the hollow tree. "Just one more thing," said the witch. "If you would rather have gold instead of elber and capper, go into the third room, where you will find a dog with eyes as large as round towers. Put him on the apron and take as much gold from the chert as you like."



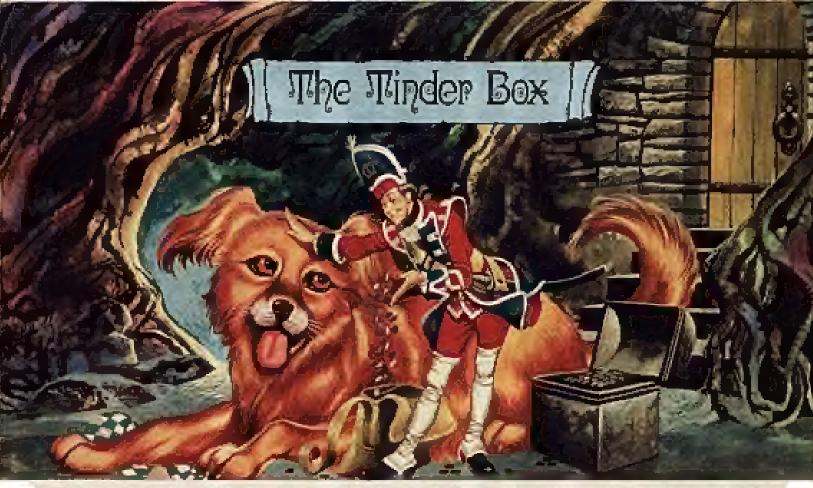
7. The soldier's heart was beating fast as he went quintly down the passage. He was tooking for the first door and he soon bund it. "The old witch was quite right," he thought. "There is indeed a key in the lock." Very gently he turned the key, so as not to make loc much noise, and opened the door. Peoping into the room, the first thing he saw was a huge bone on the licor.



6 As the soldier went farther down, the last words he heard from the witch were: "Not a penny do I want. The only thing I want you to bring me is an old finder-box which my grandmother left there by mistake the test time she was down in the tree." The soldier suddenly found himself in a wide passage, just as the strange old witch had described. It was lit by several lamps.



8. Then he hoard a soft growt and saw the dog with eyes as big as seacups. It looked at the soldier, then put one of its front passe on a chest as though to protect it. "There's a good creature," the soldier said. "But don't stare at me so, or you will make your eyes weak." Hoping that the witch had spoken truttfully, he began to slip the apron out of his pocket to put the dog on it.



 Jury se the old witch had described to him when he mat her an his way home from the war, the brave soldier found himself in a great cave beneath an only tree—and in the cave was a dog with eyes as big as lescupe guarding a chest full of copper coins. "I think I can deal with you, my fire follow," said the soldier.

3. He spread the witch's apon on the ground and managed to lift the dog's front pass on to it. At once the dog became quies, just as the witch had premised. "This is wonderful," chucifed the socier, "New I can help myself to all the copper coins I wish and fill my knapsack with as much as I am able to carry."



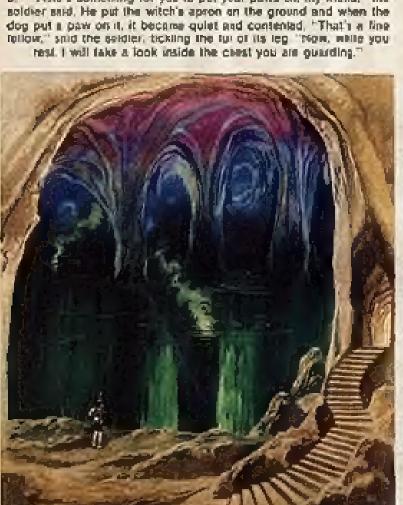
3. Hawing done this, the soldier posted up the apron, picted the dog on the head and went out. His knopsack was heavy, being full of capper coins but he carried it happing on one shoulder. "I have enough money here to keep me in ladging and food for at least a whole month," he said to himself, as he climbed a llight of steps.



Me opened a door at the top their went down some thore steps and, wonders of wonders, he came to a cave where sat the dog with eyes as large as mill-wheelet "You had better not stars at me so," remarked the soldier, "I will make your eyes weak." The huge dog growled but the soldier, having the witch's apron, was not alread.



"Hore's something for you to put your paws on, my friend," the rest. I will take a look inside the crest you are guarding."



The inspect was still as heavy as before, but now it was much more valuable. "Just one of these silver coins will keep me for a week at east-and I must have a thousand of them," said the joyful soldier. He went out of the care and looked around him. "The wrich spake of there being three rooms," he murmured.



On raising the lid of the chest, the soldier could hardy avoid blinking his eyes, being dezired by the sparkle which came from a hoard of silver coins. "It would be looksh for me to carry a load of copper around when I might have silver," he thought, and, emplying his knapsack of the copper coins, he tilled it with silver.



"Before I find my way out I suppose I had better have a glance at the Fird." Soon he came to the third door, which he opened. There he found himself at the top of a flight of steps, looking down into an enormous cave. Something was in the cave looking at hima dog with eyes each as large as a round tower!



1. Now the prace solder was in the third of the rooms under the holdwick tree, and here he came upon the dog with eyes as big as round towers, and they kept rolling round and round like wheels. "Good evening," said the soldler, and he touched his cap in great respect, for he had never seen such a monster dog as this before. "You had better not stare at me so—d will make your eyes wask."

2. The solder stood watering at the huge dog for a minute or two. Then aligned the old witch's spron along the floor until it came to rest beneath one of the dogs paws. At once the dog stopped growling and rolling its eyes. "Thank goodness the witch spoke the truth about her agron," thought the soldier to himself, with a sigh of refer. "Without it i could never have tamed this one!"



3. Then he looked at the chest which the dog had been guarding. It was full of gold coins, enough to buy enrithing in the world that he wanted Laughing, he emphied the knapsact of the siher coins, and put the gold ones in instead. What a weight it was !



4. Picking up the old linder box, he harried along the passage ways to the slope that led up to the hollow bak tree. "Hello, old witch," he should. "Pull me up again." "Have you brought the binder box with you, soldier)" He told her that he had indeed.



5. But once he got to ground level again, the soldier would not give it to her. "Just tell me," he said, "what you are going to do with this old linder box." "That's no concern of yours," replied the old witch "You've got your money, so give me that tinder box this instant." The soldier started to draw his sword, "if you won't tell me then you anan't have it." he exclaimed



7. Left right? Left, right! He merched proudly up to the front entrance of the front inn in the town. Two of the servants raw him coming and could not help thinking that the soldier might be making a mistake and could not really afford to enter such a place like a grand gentleman. But when he brought out one of the gold coins, they bowed and welcomed him inside without delay.



6. The witch screamed and raged, but there was nothing she was able to do about it. Away went the soldier with the finder box and his triapsack crammed with gold coins and presently se came within sight of a targe town. A very handsoms town it was too "It tooks a likely place for me to spend a little of my money," he chuckled, "I'll be able to eat and sleep like a millionare."



In walked the soldier and he called for two of the best rooms in the place. Satisfied with these, he then went down into the dining-room and ordered the choicest and the most expensive dishes for his supper. A king could not have been treated better. Our soldier was now a very rich man—but that was not to be the end of his adventures with the linder box.



1. Now that he had ar much money to spend, the solder did not worry how cookly it want. He rented himself a fine place to live in and had servants to dress him in the most splendid clothes. They told him about their King and the beautiful Princess, his daughter "I would like to see her," the soldier said. "Please make all the arrangements." "No one can see her at all," the footman replied.



2. "She lives in a copper palace and no one but the King goes to visit for, because it has been foreteld that she will marry a common soldier, and our King would not like that at all," added the feetmen. So the soldier had to be content with travelling around in his carriage, and he always took plenty of money with him to give away to the seedy, for he had once been poor himself.



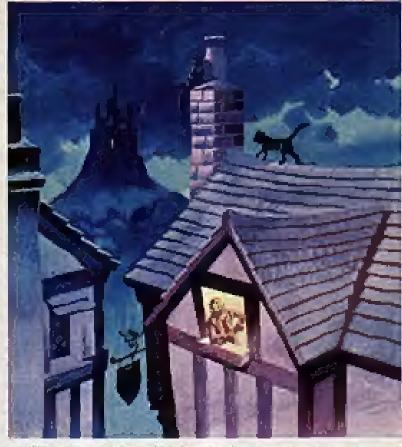
3 But as he was now giving and apending every they and receiving no money in roturn, his money began to disappear. At last the knapsack was empty except for a coin or two "How quickly it has gone," gasped the soldier in some surprise. "Now I am poor once again and will have to move from this expensive apartment."



4 So he moved to a cheep little attle, where he had to look after himself without any servants or friends. One evening he did not even have a match to light a candle, but he remembered all at once the tinder-box that the old witch had made him tetch out of the hottow tree. He struck it once to make some sparks.



9. Wonder of wonders! The door burst open and in came the dog with eyes as big as tea-cups. "I have brought you a bag at copper coins," said the dog, "What other commands has my muster for his show?" The solder now understood the magic of the under-box. "If I strike it once, the dog with eyes like tea-cups brings me a bagist of money!" he checkled to himself.



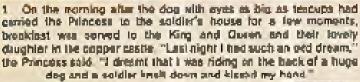
5. "To strike it twice will bring the dog that guards the chest of silver," he want on "And three strikes will bring the dog that guards the gold." Then another thought came to him. "I want to see the Princess." he told the dog with eyes as big as tra-cups. "It is rather tale, I know, but bring her here." The dog bounded away and the soldier waited patiently.



7. He did not have long to wait, for in less than two or three minutes the dog came bounding back. And on its back "sleeping soundly, tay the beautiful Princess." How enchanting and lovely she is," said the soldier, "She is a real Princess indeed and I am glad to have the great good fortene of looking at her."

8. The soldier could not stop hirmself from bending down and kissing the hand of the awest Princess. She did not move, but the soldier thought that there was a bry tremble of her little hinger. "Dear awest Princess, I would like you to stay longer but now i roust send you back to your copper castle," he said.







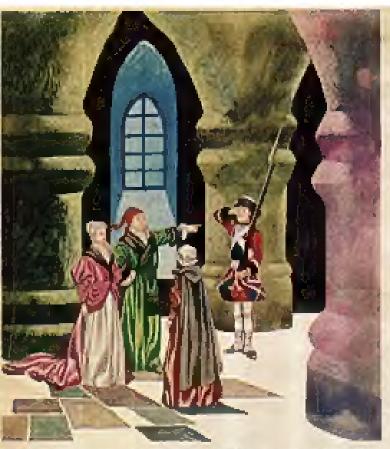
3. The dog hurried away with the alcoping Princess, taking her out of the copper castle and through the woodlands that led to the town. Whereupon the maid put on a cloak and followed at a sale distance, to find out where it was taking the Princess.



2 "A presty sort of dream indeed!" exclaimed the Queen, and that night she told one of the maids to keep watch in the bedroom of the Princess. Now, the saidler longed to see the fair Princess again and semmoned the dog to littch her. This the dog did and the maid was asionished to see the enormous arimal come into the bedroom of the Princess and put her gootly on its back.



4. She new the dog vanish mio a large house. "Now I know what to do." she thought to hereof. "I will make sure that this house is well remembered." Taking out a piece of chalk, she then put a large white cross on the door and went back to the palace.



5. By the time the moid got there the Princess was safely back in her room, for the ecider had not dered to heap her longer than the time it took him to kiss her hand again. But when the maid told the King and Queen about it, the King catled one of the Royal Guards. "Get two men ready to go with myself and the Queen on a journey to the town," the King commanded him.



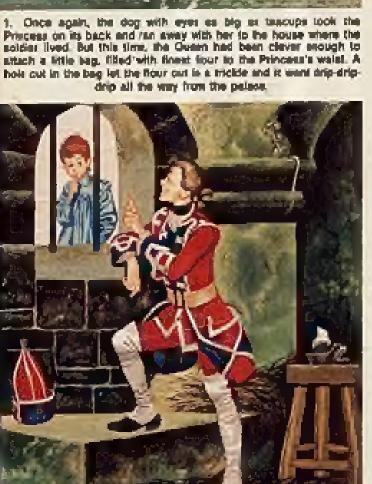
6. Now on the way back to the cave beneath the hollow dak tree where it lived, the dog with eyes as big as teacupe tempered to go back through the town and it saw that the door of the soldier's house now had a write cross on it. And, being a dog of great intelligence, it at once found another place of chalk and put a cross on every door of every house in the neighbourhood.



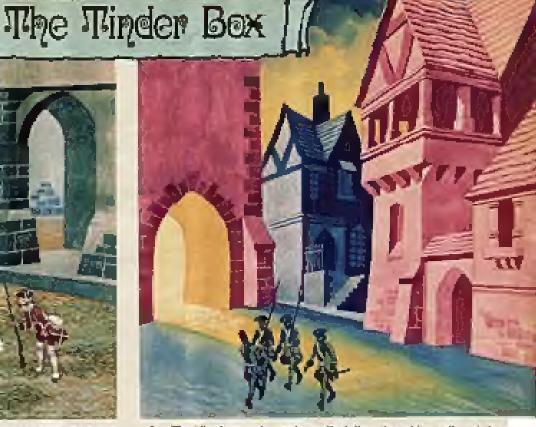
7. Early in the merning out came the King, the Ducen, the maid and three of the Royal Guards, every one of them very curious to see where the Princess had been. "Here is the place," said the King, as soon as he saw a door with a white cross on it.

5. "My dear, where are your eyes? This is the place," said the Owen, setting a second door marked with chalk. Then they saw crosses go the doors everywhere—and it was evident that their search would be in value and they would have to give it up

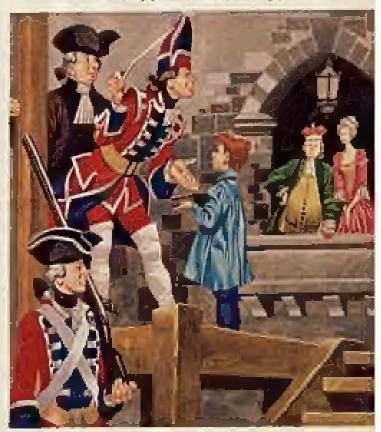




3. By order of the King, the poor soldier was imprisoned in a durgeon. These seemed to be no way of escape and in the next hour they were going to execute him. But he managed to attract the attention of a small boy through the barred window. "Pun to my lodgings and fatch me my linder-box, lad, and I will give you evopence," said the soldier. "All right," said the boy.



2. The King's guards could easily follow the white trail and they went into the house and errested the soldier. "Come with us, lettow," said the captain of the guard. "You will be most serverely punished for this. I promise you," "Sut I did the Princess no harm," said the soldier. "I only wanted to see her tace and kies her hand, for I have failen in love with her."



4. As the lad raced sway for the tinderbox, the guards came and took the soldier out to file piece of execution. But he was in no huny to die, and he begged a favour from the King. "All I wish is to smake one last pipe of lobacco, Your Majesty," he pleaded. The King could not refuse this harmless request, so the soldier filled his pipe and look the tinder-box from the boy.

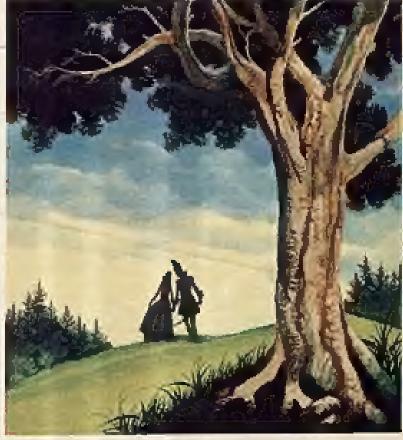


5. Pretending that he wanted to light his pipe, the solder struck the filmt. Once he struck it, twice he struck it, and three times he struck it. Lo and behold, all the three wizard dogs obeyed the command and appeared at oxce—the dog with eyes the bacups, the dog with eyes as big as nill-wheels and the biggest of them all, which had eyes as big as round towers!

6. "Help me, my hierds," the soldier cried. The three terrible dogs growled a little—but that was about all they had to do, for the mere aight of them sent the King and all his judges and soldiers into a greez panic. They all ran away from the soldier, who emiled as he wasched them scatter in contusion. The dog with eyes as big as mill-wheels fixed its gaze upon the King.



7 It picked up the King's clock in its teeth and swung the royal sonarch off the ground. He wriggled and squirmed and yelled to be put down. "I will see that it is done at once, Your Majesty," smilled the soldier. "But I will only give the order on one condition—that you will allow me to marry your daughter."



And when the King agreed, the aridler called off the three great dogs and sent them back to their home beneath the hollow tree. In that royal kingdom, a wise man had once foreign that the lovely Princess would marry a soldier—and this soon became true, and the happy soldier had no need to use his linder-box equits.